

The Beginning of Grow Spink

April 3, 2001

**AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CITIZENS
OF SPINK COUNTY**

AN INVITATION TO A MEETING

Spink County, like most rural counties in the state, must face shrinking populations and struggling economies. We must deal with school closures and consolidations; fewer opportunities for our young people; maintaining adequate health care for all of us, especially our seniors; fewer farmers and “main street” business closures.

But you have ideas that not only deal with our problems but can create opportunities to “**GROW SPINK**”. An informed, challenged and organized populace can achieve a more positive future.

To that end the undersigned invite you to attend a meeting on Tuesday April 3rd at 6:30 pm in the court house basement to discuss our situation and our future. Bring your concerns and ideas.

We have invited our congressional delegation and our state legislators; our local elected and appointed officials; and officials from the Governor’s Office of Economic Development (GOED), Beadle and Spink Enterprise Community (BASEC) and Northeast South Dakota Economic Corporation (NESDEC) to **listen** to all of us.

We are also planning on visiting each community in the county the next day to talk with you about your successes and needs.

We believe we need to build on our strengths, start small, share ideas and work together.

Signatories

Norbert Barrie
Wally Mundstock
Stan Schultz
Lester Wienbar
Tim Rabb
Craig Johnson

Grow Spink Progress

In late March, 2001 a half - dozen citizens of Spink County gathered together to discuss what might be done to promote our county. As a result of these discussions, a county-wide meeting was held early in April. The meeting was well attended by local citizens as well as political leaders and two representatives of the Governor’s Office of Economic Development.

Meetings continued on a monthly basis in communities around the county, including Mellette, Doland, Tulare, Frankfort, Turton and Conde. Guest speakers at these meetings encouraged us to continue and gave ideas on how to pursue our goals.

A news letter was started after our second meeting which was mailed or e-mailed to persons who had attended meetings and to public officials state wide. Grow Spink continued work on several initiatives and ideas through the end of 2001 to promote the betterment of the county and its citizens in the future.

In November, Grow Spink began studying a long range plan to promote the local economy. On December 3, Grow Spink, Inc Board member and spokesperson Craig Johnson appeared before the Redfield City Council and on December 4 the Spink County Commissioners to present such a plan.

NEWS RELEASE

December 20, 2001

Grow Spink, Inc President Norbert Barrie has announced that a tri-party agreement has been finalized with Spink County and the City of Redfield for the purpose of promoting economic and community development for their respective areas. The city and county will jointly provide funds for hiring an executive director and for operational expenses. Grow Spink will pursue growth from “cottage” industries, expanding local businesses, promoting livability, to value added agri-businesses.

Grow Spink has employed Craig Johnson as executive director effective January 1, 2002. Johnson is currently a board member and one of the original members of the Grow Spink steering committee.

Grow Spink will maintain an office on the third floor of the Spink County Courthouse in Redfield.

The Story Keeps Growing

Since then Grow Spink has established itself as a 501 (c) non-profit corporation and continues to contractually work for the City of Redfield and Spink County.

It continues to explore all potential opportunities with many not seeing the light of day. Success with other initiatives, however, has been achieved. Some successes include Synergy Solutions, The Lumberyard, Curves, Save Smart, a new dentist and the Governor's House/Sunrise Addition development. Grow Spink worked closely with Redfield, Spink County and the Redfield Corporation to bring more industry the Redfield Industrial Park. Grow Spink also helped the Turton community find funding for marketing itself.

Grow Spink continues its efforts to recruit value added agriculture ventures, family dairies and bringing new residents to the area. Other initiatives include bringing a shooting complex and affordable housing to Spink County.

Grow Spink is the only county entity state wide to have a booth the last three years at the state fair.

Grow Spink's web site continues to be developed as a marketing tool and an information source. Its address is www.growspink.com.

Grow Spink maintains a good working relationship with the various governmental agencies. Especially notable was the help it received with the Sunrise Addition housing project and the recruitment of our new dentist.

Much of the success that Grow Spink has achieved is because (1) it has been a "clearing house" for persons seeking information, (2) the close relationship and support it continues to receive from both the City of Redfield and Spink County and (3) the recognition it has received state-wide.

Grow Spink continues to work for the citizens and businesses of Spink County.

The board meets on the first Thursday evening of each month. The schedule of locations is published on the web-site. The meetings are open to the public.

Visit www.growspink.com

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*remembering our yesterdays;
growing today
for our tomorrows*

Spink County



GROW SPINK, Inc

*Dedicated to the Betterment of
Spink County*

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